

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/896,116

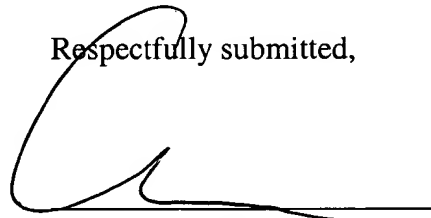
REMARKS

Claims 1-33 have been examined. Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and the Examiner indicates that 1-8 and 10-33 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 9 to include the limitations of allowable claim 33 and has amended claim 22 into independent form.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 20, 2004